

TWENTY-THIRD

21

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

President, Treasurer, and Librarian

OF THE

Mercantile Library Association

OF

SAN FRANCISCO,

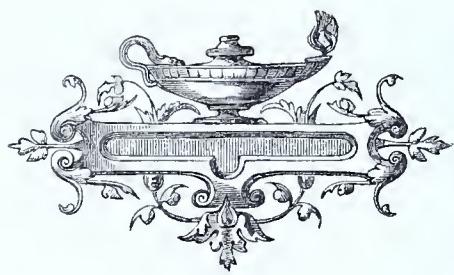
1875.

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SAN FRANCISCO:

BACON & COMPANY, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,

1876.



# LIST OF OFFICERS, 1876.

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PRESIDENT :

LOVELL WHITE.

VICE PRESIDENT :

T. H. REARDEN.

RECORDING SECRETARY :

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY :

HENRY MOLINEUX.

J. CLEM UHLER.

TREASURER :

GEO. C. HICKOX.

TRUSTEES :

JOHN W. TAYLOR,	A. J. MOULDER,
M. J. McDONALD,	A. H. LOUGHBOROUGH,
J. O. ROUNTREE,	W. F. WHITTIER,
FRED'K L. CASTLE,	SAMUEL HEITSHU,
CHAS. R. ALLEN.	

LIBRARIAN :

ALFRED E. WHITAKER.

ASSISTANTS :

DARWIN CARR,
H. K. GODDARD,
L. B. WETHERBEE.

JANITOR :

GEO. W. EASTMAN.

COLLECTOR :

JOHN WILLIAMS.

PAGES :

THOMAS CLEARY,
GUSTAVUS SCHWARZMANN.

## STANDING COMMITTEES, 1876.

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### WAYS AND MEANS:

F. L. CASTLE,

J. O. ROUNTREE,

W. F. WHITTIER,

### ACCOUNTS:

SAMUEL HEITSHU,

M. J. McDONALD,

W. F. WHITTIER,

### LIBRARY AND ROOMS:

J. W. TAYLOR,

J. O. ROUNTREE,

A. H. LOUGHBOROUGH.

### LECTURES:

A. H. LOUGHBOROUGH,

A. J. MOULDER,

S. HEITSHU.

### BOOKS AND DONATIONS:

A. J. MOULDER,

C. R. ALLEN,

J. W. TAYLOR.

### PRINTING:

C. R. ALLEN,

M. J. McDONALD,

F. L. CASTLE.

## REPORT OF THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.

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In presenting his annual report, the President respectfully congratulates the members of the Mercantile Library Association upon its continued prosperity and usefulness.

The report of your Treasurer will give you the usual details of receipts and expenditures, from which the following facts appear:

The gross transactions are less, owing to diminished rents and Catalogue sales. The income from dues and fees is about \$1,000 more, and the expenditures for the Book and Library Account \$2,000 larger than for the preceding year.

The very interesting and complete report of your Librarian furnishes a full statement of the number and classification of books circulated ; additions, by purchase and donation ; also, membership, and other useful facts, to which you are respectfully referred.

The insurance upon our property has been renewed and apportioned as follows :

Building,	· · · · ·	\$40,000
Library and printed matter,	· · · · ·	35,000
Furniture and fixtures,	· · · · ·	5,000
Total,	· · · · ·	\$80,000

Suitably divided among fifteen reputable companies.

The building has been repainted, and the metal roof thoroughly repaired and painted, improvements much needed the past year, but which could not well be undertaken in addition to the then other necessary outlays, upon publication of the Catalogue.

A Supplemental Catalogue, of 168 pages, has been published, conforming in character and arrangement to the large one issued in 1874, embracing all additions since, amounting to upwards of 5,000 volumes. New books are promptly classified and described for current reference, and it is designed to publish further supplements to the

Catalogue, when warranted by the increase of volumes. The whole Library has been numerically arranged, and all new books consecutively numbered as received.

The ticket system for keeping accounts of books issued to members has been substituted for the registers formerly used. This method is cheaper, more simple, accurate, and rapid than that hitherto employed, affording to the Librarian immediate information of the condition of members' dues and the number of books already charged and unreturned.

In this connection, your attention is directed to the adoption of some more rigorous means for the return of books too long retained by readers, the present method of fines being wholly inefficient.

I think some arrangement with the District Telegraph Company for employment of its messengers in this service entirely feasible, to which might be added, under proper regulations, the delivery of books to members at their residences. This practice has obtained acceptance in other cities, and is recommended to your consideration.

The facilities afforded by our foreign correspondents—Messrs. Trübner & Co., and Bernard Quaritch, of London—are quite advantageous, enabling us to receive advance copies of all important publications and furnish them to our members almost simultaneously with their issuance there.

Our New York agents—Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons—are likewise prompt and discriminating in forwarding us early copies of all suitable American works.

The thanks of the Association are extended to Hon. J. S. Hager, United States Senator, and Hon. Charles Clayton, member of Congress, for their interest in supplying us with Government documents, and for other courtesies.

It has been apparent to the officers of the Library, for several years past, that some means should be adopted for the preservation of our volumes, and their systematic delivery to applicants. While the Library was small, and its officers personally acquainted with most of the members, their free access to the book-shelves was a convenience to both, without serious objection; but the practice then permitted has, by reason of increased membership and the presence of persons unknown to the Librarians, become a cause of much inconvenience and detriment. How to remedy this, so as least to incommodate our patrons, has been for many months a subject of anxious care by your Trustees, to which they have devoted much time in

comparing methods employed elsewhere, and studying how they might best harmonize public convenience with necessary order and safety. The publication of our Catalogue was a preliminary step in this direction, which it was thought would afford some relief; but the examination of our volumes in its preparation, and later testimony presented in the process of numbering our books, convinced your officers that some change was imperative. Accordingly, after due consideration, it was unanimously decided, as the best and simplest method, to enclose our shelves and deliver books only at the Librarian's desk. The holidays were selected as the most convenient time, and the Library was closed for ten days to adjust the fixtures and renovate the rooms. The delivery desk was transferred to the south end, affording more light, and bringing the attendants in better view of the floor and entrances. The experiment thus far justifies the change, and we feel assured, when fully understood, it will be commended by all who are interested for the permanence and availability of the Library.

Unauthorized and exaggerated statements having been circulated as a reason for this change, it may be proper to mention some facts in its support. We are applying to our use the established experience of similar institutions in other cities. The shelves of no circulating library, of considerable magnitude, elsewhere, are open to public access. The privilege, so long extended here, which the Trustees were reluctant to modify, continually created disorder and disappointment, by reason of books being misplaced on the shelves after examination by readers. The withdrawal of books by members, who, from haste or carelessness, omitted to have them duly charged, has been frequently discovered, many of these cases being in excess of their limit. In addition to the reasonable and unavoidable contingencies attending general circulation among careful and well disposed persons, the Library has suffered serious losses through theft, mutilation, and defacement—in many cases of rare and valuable books. From among the numerous instances which have come to our knowledge, some may properly be mentioned: A few months since, twenty-seven volumes, belonging to the Library, were found on the roof of a lodging-house, upon departure of one of its occupants. At another time, eighteen works, in the German language, were found in a room on Kearny street, which had recently been vacated by a young man—a member—none of which appeared in his account. These books were offered for sale, and only restored to us through the

honesty of a non-subscriber. Occasions are numerous of our recovering from one to three books at a time from hotels, lodging-houses, and other places, which were left in rooms by parties vacating them. Volumes bearing the Library stamp and labels have often been found among lots of second-hand books offered for sale. Quite recently, we were informed, by letter, that two important works belonging to the Association were in a private library in one of the interior towns, which were only recovered through an officer of the law. Single numbers of sets of volumes have been abstracted, thereby destroying the series and greatly impairing their value. Rare and expensive books of reference, the use of which is restricted exclusively to the Library-rooms, have been taken away and not returned. Upwards of one hundred pages have been cut from our Encyclopædia Britannica. Valuable books have been mutilated and rendered comparatively worthless by the theft of fine portraits, choice engravings or etchings, and useful tables. Several parties detected defacing and writing in books have been excluded. These, and numerous minor offenses, which were impossible of prevention under the existing freedom of the Library, demanded radical and decisive action for its protection.

Measured by these facts and the results of experience elsewhere, the Trustees are confirmed in their belief that general exclusion from the book-shelves is necessary and just, and they confidently submit their act to your intelligent and conscientious judgment.

The Directory of this Association is especially regarded a place of honor, neither salary nor perquisites being attached thereto. As members of the Association, the officers themselves usually represent an average opinion of the whole number ; and in exercising the authority temporarily delegated to them, under the light of fuller information and a sense of moral responsibility for the results, have ever been mindful of our common interest and privileges.

Rapid growth of the city and encroachments of business are fast rendering our present location unsuitable, and it has been a subject of much anxiety on the part of your Trustees to secure an eligible site and erect thereon an edifice better adapted to your convenience and the prospective importance of the Library. Negotiations, promising this result and other advantages, were interrupted by the recent commercial reaction, and have not since been renewed. The execution of this purpose will very soon enforce itself as a necessity, and I earnestly recommend the subject to the early attention of our new

Trustees, as indicated by past experience and reasonable foresight. Lots of suitable size and location are already difficult to procure, and the enhancing prices of real estate will, in a short time, place them beyond our means of purchase.

Upon closing the accounts of the Gift Concerts there remained in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$7,540, being the amount of unpaid coupons, which have never been presented. In order to utilize this fund for the benefit of the Library, an arrangement was subsequently made with the Bank of California, by which the principal was invested in U. S. bonds, and the interest thereon regularly paid to us, pending presentation or limitation of claims against it. Several years having elapsed, there is now little if any probability of further demands ever being made thereon, and the fund might, under proper guarantees, be transferred directly to the custody of the Association.

The duties of the officers involve at times considerable care and labor, particularly those appertaining to the Committees on Library and Rooms, and on Books and Donations, and your obligations are justly due to Vice-President William Loewy, who, as member of the latter for several years, has rendered constant and invaluable service. My personal acknowledgments are hereby tendered to all the gentlemen associated in these relations for their uniform courtesy and assistance.

This report would be incomplete without offering a tribute of respect and obligation to the memory of the Hon. James Otis, late Mayor of our city, who was recently removed by death from an active and useful career. Identified with the Mercantile Library Association from its formation, and twice elected President, he was its constant friend and patron. Invested with many important public trusts, he challenged admiration by singular firmness in discharge of duty, and in all the relations of life, public and private, worthily sustained his name.

GEO. C. HICKOX,  
President.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 18th, 1876.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR

THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JAN. 18th, 1876.

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## Receipts.

Quarterly Dues from Members.....	\$20,121 50
Initiation Fees.....	1,104 00
Life Memberships.....	200 00
Fines .....	13 15
Book Account—Sales and Forfeitures.....	99 90
Rents—Stores .....	\$1,863 00
Hall.....	638 00
Attic.....	2,121 00
	—————
Catalogue Account.....	253 75
Interest Account.....	421 95
	—————
Total Receipts of the Year.....	\$26,836 25
Balance on hand at last Report .....	2,412 86
	—————
Total Receipts of the year.....	\$29,249 11

## Expenditures.

Salaries—Librarian, Assistants, etc.....	\$9,821 55
Books and Periodicals.....	6,631 69
Catalogue Account.....	987 58
Improvements and Repairs.....	1,225 27
State, City and County Taxes.....	2,338 08
Lecture Account—Expenses.....	\$207 40
Less Receipts.....	188 50
	—————
Carried forward.....	18 90
	—————
	\$21,023 07

Brought forward .....	\$21,023 07
Expense Account, viz :	
Gas.....	\$2,584 20
Water .....	360 00
Fuel .....	200 00
Printing and Binding.....	2,002 60
Election Expenses.....	440 77
Stationery.....	163 74
Sundries.....	248 00
	————— 5,999 31
Librarian's Disbursements, viz :	
Expense Account.....	240 65
Book Account.....	152 85
Postoffice Account.....	92 95
Lecture Account .....	4 00
	————— 490 45
Total Expenditures of the year.....	\$27,512 83
Balance, Cash in bank.....	1,736 28
	—————
	\$29,249 11

Upon assuming the office of Treasurer three years ago, besides the cash balance coming into my hands, there was an unsettled item of \$7,540, remaining on deposit with the Bank of California, to the credit of the fund of the "Gift Concert" held in 1870 in aid of this Association; being the amount payable upon drawing tickets, not yet presented, but payment of which had been guaranteed by the Bank. Although these funds do not properly belong to the Association, (but to the various unknown ticket-holders) it seemed desirable that the Library should have the benefit of at least the interest on the money; and in January, 1874, an arrangement was effected whereby the sum named was invested in United States bonds, from which the Library has since received the annual interest of \$423. These bonds are yet held by the Bank as security against the presentation of the missing tickets. But inasmuch as nearly five years have elapsed since the latest payment on that account, I would suggest to the incoming Board the advisability of some proceeding or negotiation by which the Bank may be relieved of its liability to the outstanding ticket-holders, and the Bonds taken into the property account of this Association, subject, of course, to the production, if ever, of the "Concert Coupons."

W. W. WIGGINS,

Treasurer.

SAN FRANCISCO, January 18th, 1876.

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

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*To the President, Board of Trustees and Members of the Mercantile Library Association:*

In compliance with the requirements of the constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith, for your consideration, the Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Librarian of the Association, exhibiting, in more or less detail as importance demands, the operations of the Library in its several departments for the year 1875.

The past year has been one of unceasing activity, and, in its brief run, much has been accomplished of the greatest moment to the progress and welfare of the Library. For several years past, work preliminary to the action recently taken, of excluding readers from the shelves, has been quietly but energetically prosecuted. The necessity of such a step has long been allowed, and it only remained to place the collection in condition for its earliest practicable execution. Catalogues were to be supplied in the most available form for public reference ; the books rearranged and numbered, and facilities for their reception and delivery reorganized and perfected. The years 1871, 1872, and 1873 were devoted to the publication of our first Catalogue. The Library had then no systematic or reliable edition, even in manuscript ; and for this reason, together with the fact that the work undertaken was exceptional in fullness and detail, the volume was not brought to completion till February 1st, 1874.

This, the first step, accomplished, attention was then turned to the task of numbering the books. As stated in the previous report, active operations were commenced in August 1874 ; and for the remainder of that year and the greater portion of 1875, the constant services of one assistant have been required for its completion. The process of numbering a Library, besides necessitating the handling and rehandling of all the books in the collection, and the pasting of labels on the back and inside of every cover, requires a thorough fa-

miliarity with the Catalogue of the Library, and the exercise of the nicest accuracy. Though slow and tedious, the work has been looked upon as a necessity, and has been patiently and faithfully performed.

As the introduction of the proposed changes would necessitate the selection of books from the Catalogues, unusual effort has been made, during the past year, to supply them in *printed form*, brought down to the latest date possible. To this end a Supplementary Catalogue of 168 pages has been issued, containing all accessions from Feb. 1st, 1874, the date of the issue of the former main work, to Sept. 1st, 1875, an aggregate of 5,000 volumes. In this was included the DIVISION LETTER and NUMBER, indicating the location of books, and thus furnishing the reader with sufficient data to fill out a written application.

In addition to this, for the greater accommodation of the large, and hence important class, whose principal diversion is found in the field of Romance, a special or "Class List of Fiction" has just been issued, and, like the preceding one, with the DIVISION LETTER and NUMBER attached. This, with but two or three exceptions, forms a complete list of all the novels in the Library on Jan. 1st, 1876, and will prove an indispensable help to all who patronize this department.

Our Card Catalogue, to which reference must be made for all works received later than Sept. 1st, 1875, is therefore fortunately small, representing less than 300 works. This, it is expected, will be issued in *printed lists*, at convenient intervals, that the public may always be, as nearly as possible, supplied with a complete index of what our collection possesses.

The new system of book-delivery referred to in our last Annual Report was adopted in February last as promised, and has been in constant use since that time. It relieves us of the clumsy registers formerly in use, saving the great annual labor and expense of replacing them with new. None of the advantages of the register system are lost in this, while many new ones are supplied, and, though not perhaps without objection, it has given great satisfaction, and, as compared with the old, is no small improvement.

The results of the past year, as shown in the use made of the Library, in its various classified departments, are exhibited in the following

## Table of Circulation.

	Vols.	Per Ct.		Vols.	Per Ct.
Romance.....	55,175	68.8	Poetry .....	1,525	1.9
Juvenile .....	4,078	5.1	Spanish .....	81	.2
Travels.....	2,940	3.6	French .....	2,683	3.2
Biography .....	2,366	3.1	Collected Works..	1,327	1.6
Belles-Lettres ....	1,677	2.2	German .....	1,637	2.1
Science.....	3,468	4.3	Theology .....	597	.7
History .....	2,355	2.9	Periodicals .....	175	.3
Total.....				80,084	

By comparison with the table for 1874, there is an *apparent* falling off in circulation to the extent of some 4,000 volumes. Such, however, is, in reality, not the case. By the system now in use the record of circulation is made up from the cards representing the books returned, and not, as formerly, from the entries made as books were delivered. Consequently, for the month of February, in which the change was made, a great portion of the books returned, being charged upon the old registers, could not be included in the slips representing the returned books for the month, and a deficiency of full 3,000 volumes, represented by the slips remaining in the pigeon-holes at the end of the month, inevitably occurred. Again, in making our recent repairs in the Library Room, the circulation of books ceased entirely for ten days, and our report for the month of December is proportionately below the average. By making allowances for these two causes we can find reason to congratulate ourselves upon a continued demand for reading matter, and a circulation exceeding that of the previous year by at least 2,000 volumes.

## The Membership

Of the Association is as follows:

Subscribing Members (who have paid to Jan. 1st, 1876.)	1,726
Life Members .....	318
Honorary Members.....	91
Total.....	2,135

The prosperity or decline of an institution like our own, which derives its entire support from its subscribing members, must be looked for, naturally, in the maintenance or decrease of such membership. A cash balance in the Treasurer's hands at the end of each year by no means indicates unmistakable progress. A library, unless growing, is not flourishing; mere library existence is stagnation. If, on the contrary, we enjoy a large and increased patronage in membership, our revenue is of course increased to that extent, and should our balance at the end of the year be wanting, or even be on the wrong side, it is only an indication that, under the supervision of an ordinarily judicious Board of Trustees, the resources at hand have been expended in adding to the store of the Library's wealth; in contributing to its ultimate attraction, growth and usefulness.

From a glance at the statement of membership given above, and recalling a few figures from the statistics of former years, we have reason to think that our efforts in the past have been appreciated by the public, and to hope for continued and increased encouragement.

During the past year five hundred and fifty-two (552) new subscribers have been added to our roll. This is *forty-three* (43) more than joined the Association in 1874, and *one hundred and forty-one* (141) more than in 1873.

Though our Life and Honorary Members' Lists vary but little, the loss by the decease of old members being about equal to the gain by the addition of new, our *total* membership is still greatly enlarged. It will be noticed that the Association enjoyed an uninterrupted and rapid increase of membership from its very beginning up to the year 1872, when its subscribers numbered 2,062. For the following year it was 2,048, for 1874 2,038, and for 1875 2,041, showing but little variation during the four years mentioned, and that little to our loss.

The year 1876, however, we are pleased to state, finds us with a total membership of 2,135. Of this number, 1,726 are subscribing members, which is greater by 83 than the number reported one year ago, and, by 106 than the number reported for 1874.

The unstable, the fluctuating element in our membership is undoubtedly quite large; but unless, through some special cause, we should suffer some great loss, it is safe to affirm that the additions to our membership will more than counterbalance the ordinary losses, and that another year will enable us to make even a better showing than is possible now.

## Books.

In our facilities for obtaining books no change has occurred since the last report. By arrangements already concluded at that date with Messrs. N. Trübner & Co. of London, and Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons of New York, those houses have been acting in the capacity, respectively, of the Foreign and American Purchasing Agents of the Association, and have kept us supplied with the publications of the past year, as soon as practicable after their issue from the press. That time might be gained, all of our packages forwarded by Messrs. Putnam's Sons come to us by book-post. Many of the new foreign publications have, until recently, been sent in the same manner; but the limit of book-post matter having been reduced to two (2) pounds weight, small cases are now made up at more frequent intervals than before, and shipped by steamer. A misunderstanding having occurred in relation to American republications of English works, many of this class do not appear in our Accession List of the year, but will be supplied at the first opportunity.

During the year there have been added to our collection 3,001 volumes. A list of a few, permitted by our space, is given in the Appendix. The following classification will show the several departments as represented :

Romance .....	1,495	Collected Works .....	18
Science .....	505	Papers.....	42
Belles-Lettres .....	83	Periodicals (bound).....	248
Travels.....	212	Reports (bound).....	13
Biography .....	110	Cyclopædias .....	35
Poetry .....	120	Government Reports.....	120

Total .....	3,001
The number of volumes reported in the Library, Jan. 1, 1875, was .....	39,148
Number added by purchase .....	2,521
Number added by donation.....	177
Number added by binding.....	{ Newspapers. 42 Magazines .. 248 Reports.... 13 } 303
Total .....	42,149

Forward .....	42,149
Deduct imperfect and worn-out books given to the German Hospital and State Prison Libraries.....	272
Books lost and paid for, and duplicates sold .....	114
Estimated loss by delinquents and dishonest persons....	200
	—
	586
Total number of volumes in Library Jan. 1, 1876.....	41,563

### Donations.

The donations to the Library vary but little from year to year, either in quantity or quality, as will be seen by the list in the Appendix. Over two hundred books and as many pamphlets have been received during the past year. Of the books, many were Government Documents, of which twenty were forwarded through the personal attention of the Hon. Chas. Clayton, and thirty-seven through that of the Hon. John S. Hager. To Mr. John S. Hittell we are also indebted for gifts amounting in the aggregate to fifteen volumes, all new, important and standard works. Mr. J. A. Lockwood has given us nine (9) books, and Mr. E. A. Percival, Jr., nineteen (19) books and nine (9) pamphlets. Washington Bartlett, Esq., has thoughtfully favored us with thirteen (13) pamphlets ; J. W. Foard, State Insurance Commissioner, with eleven (11), and Mr. Justin Winsor, Superintendent of the Boston Public Library, with sixteen (16). Especial thanks are due Messrs. Hager and Clayton for the interest they have evinced in supplying the Library with the publications of our government, and the willingness and dispatch with which they have complied, from time to time, with our many troublesome requests. To others whose names have been specially mentioned, and to all, as well, who appear in the appended list of donors, the Association desires to return the most sincere personal thanks.

### Catalogues.

Says a noted authority on library economy: "There is no matter connected with the administration of a public library which can vie, in point of importance, with the character and condition of its Cata-

logues. However liberal its accessibility, however large and well-selected its store of books, it will fall lamentably short of the true standard of a good library if its Catalogues are not (1) well constructed, (2) well kept up with the growth of the collection, (3) thoroughly at the command of its frequenters." Thomas Carlyle, in his evidence before the Commission of Inquiry on the British Museum, declares "A library is not worth anything without a Catalogue: it is a Polyphemus without an eye in his head, and you must front the difficulty, whatever it may be, of making proper Catalogues."

The much-vexed question springs up anew with the inception of every new collection of books. A Catalogue is not, as many suppose, a mere *luxury* in a library, but the very first essential to the movement of its vast machinery—the very *complement* of the collection itself; and the only question with which library managements have to contend is, what is the most convenient and practical form in which it can be produced for public reference. To maintain it in printed form, and in one continuous arrangement, is impossible. The plan of issuing supplementary volumes, at stated periods, as thus far adopted by our Association, is, perhaps, for a library of moderate growth, as desirable as any. Upon the condition and character of its Catalogues, our Association has reason to congratulate itself. It possesses a Catalogue of its books brought down in *printed* form to within four months of the present date, and a "Class List of Fiction" containing everything, in this department, received up to Jan. 1st, 1876. In this respect, the Library happily finds itself in a position it may never occupy again. As years pass and the collection increases, books will continue to be catalogued; the Card Catalogue will multiply until printing again becomes necessary, and Supplement will follow Supplement, as long as the accumulation of books shall continue. The following is a full statement of our Catalogue Account to date:

### Catalogue of 1874.

Entire edition issued.....	1,650
Number sold.....	878
Number donated .....	60
Copies on hand.....	712
	—1,650

## Catalogue of 1875.

Entire edition issued .....	75°
Number sold .....	60
Number donated .....	52
Copies on hand.....	638
	—75°

## Recapitulation.

Number of 1874 Catalogues sold, 878	Amt. realized, \$3,198 50
Number of 1875 Catalogues sold, 60	Amt. realized, 45 50
Number of "Class List of Fiction"	
sold.....	49
	Amt. realized, 12 25
Total number sold...987	

Total amount received from sales ..... \$3,256 25

At the closing of the annual accounts only 50 copies of the "Class List of Fiction" had been received, all of which had been disposed of.

## Changes and Improvements.

The change effected in the Library Room has not been introduced without great hesitation. It has, for a long time, been a matter of the most earnest deliberation, and its necessity alone has at last warranted the step. In this action the Trustees have had in view only the perservation of a valuable store of books, and the ultimate good and welfare of the Association. Individual members have undoubtedly experienced great benefit from the almost anomalous freedom of access to books formerly extended; and an uninterested public has found a, to them, harmless diversion in an indiscriminate and desultory handling of the books on the shelves. Such have we displeased—these have we offended. But for the average reader, and in general, the advantages of making selection of books, arising from a free access to the shelves, is in most cases more *imaginary* than real. Certain advantages undoubtedly do exist, but, in a majority of instances, they are not employed—the privilege is thoroughly abused—the profit thrown away. It generally happens, that, if judged by a becoming cover or attractive typography or illustration, the

veriest trash, and *not* the work of merit, falls to the choice. Library experience verifies the fact. The oldest and most worthless novel, rebound, and placed, in its fresh dress, on the shelves with other plainer but more worthy volumes, is selected without fail. In making selection from the Catalogues, however, the judgment will be made up purely from some literary characteristic, the name of the author, tone of its contents, etc., and the chances of making a happy choice are greatly against the old method. With a little application, selection of books can be made from the Catalogues more expeditiously, and with greater satisfaction, than from a confused collection on the shelves. Here all of an author's works are arranged, in alphabetical order, under his name, and, if one work is read which has given satisfaction, another of the same writer can be instantly found. By this universal grouping of various works under the respective authors' names, the reader will grow to associate the scattered productions of our numerous authors with the writer's personality, and, imperceptibly, almost, acquire a useful fund of literary data he never expected, and which, by the former desultory method of selection, would have forever remained sealed.

The system recently adopted by your Board of Trustees is *not*, as many perhaps suppose, an innovation in library economy; on the contrary, it must be considered but another step in advance toward the standard we have set up for us, in all the prominent kindred institutions in the older States of our own country, and universally throughout Europe. The prosperity and comparative merit of a library rests in its accumulation of books, and it is imperative that such as enjoy but a limited revenue, like our own, and whose annual accession list is small, should leave no means untried to prevent the loss and destruction of the little once possessed. It is no longer a *suspicion* that the public is unequal to the temptation of an open collection of books. The fact is undeniably recognized in every library of any note, and regulations enacted in accordance thereto. The adoption of this system, in our own Institution, is but the index of progress in past years. Our collection has multiplied, and the watchfulness required for its perservation has increased in like proportion. San Francisco, in population, has made rapid strides, and now stands in rank with the large cities of our land. In consequence, our membership is becoming numerous—frequenters of our rooms are from every class—many of them transitory, lacking in all interest, except the

cravings of curiosity, and *but very few*, of *all*, with any genuine care for the maintenance and growth of our literary treasures.

To longer leave our shelves open, and invite the promiscuous handling, and willful depredation of these thoughtless classes, would be to perpetuate, in the Library, a state of chaos and confusion ; to retard its growth, and to jeopardize a collection, already the pride of many, and an honor and beacon light to California and the West.

A. E. WHITAKER,

Librarian.

January 18th, 1876.

## INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT.

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To THE MEMBERS OF THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: While I fully appreciate and am very grateful for the honor done me in my election to the office of President of the Mercantile Library Association, I take upon myself the discharge of its duties with some reluctance.

In the first place, I doubt my ability to creditably fill the place, which has been occupied, in their time, by men so distinguished for ability as those who have preceded me ; but on this point I am in a degree reassured when I note the names of the other officers, and of the Trustees whom you have elected to act with me.

I feel secure that the ability of these gentlemen will abundantly make good whatever may be wanting in the efficiency of the presiding officer. Another cause for hesitation is this : bodies corporate, as well as bodies politic, ordinarily expect too much from the government. The function of government is to regulate, not to create.

The incoming administration may secure equal justice and equal privileges to every member of the Association. These privileges may be as numerous and as extensive as a proper regard for the preservation of books, magazines, and papers will allow ; freedom from debt may be maintained ; the property of the Society may be kept intact, or even added to, and yet, as a whole, but a partial success be achieved.

Full and complete success consists in a large membership of active readers, whose various tastes shall demand and compel the purchase of all works of major interest that emanate from the press ; and in a revenue commensurate with such membership, on which it depends. This large membership can only be secured by the people of the city, and more especially the present members, taking a lively interest in the welfare of the Institution, and working for it.

No management, by the government for the time being of this Society, can create a taste for reading, nor increase the thirst for knowledge, but each individual member can do something in this way. On

the efforts of each and every one the immediate future growth of the Library in a degree depends.

Much printers' ink has recently been shed on the subject of the members of this Association being denied direct access to the books. It is for the incoming board of officers to determine whether the barricade shall be continued. The problem before them seems to be a simple one—it is how to prevent the theft or mutilation of books, without inconvenience to subscribers. Whether or no a complete solution has been arrived at, experience will determine.

The subject of the purchase of a site, upon which to erect a new library building, will possibly engage the attention of the new Board at an early day ; the present building is not well located, nor is it well adapted to the purpose for which it is used ; and it is believed that it and its site can be sold for sufficient to purchase a lot double the size, and build a larger and better arranged edifice. But the selection of a new site is a delicate, if not a difficult matter.

Up to the present time, it has been considered prudent not to advertise the wants of the Library in respect to a lot, lest the knowledge should enhance the price of every suitable piece of property ; but as a total want of success has attended the quiet movement, it now seems as though it would be good policy to appeal to the collective property-holders in desirable localities to place at our disposal, at reasonable prices, as many of the present subdivisions of lots as will suffice for our needs, with the expectation on their part that the location of the Library in their vicinity will considerably advance the price of contiguous real estate. It is possible that some of our members may co-operate, or point out persons who will co-operate for the purpose indicated.

Thanking you on behalf of the collective newly elected Board of Trustees for the confidence you repose in us, manifested by our election to office, which we did not seek, and the acceptance of which involves the sacrifice of some personal comfort, and of time to us individually valuable, we ask from you that you do not allow yourselves to consider your duties for the year discharged by the holding of an election, but, on the contrary, that you make it apparent that each of you takes an interest, a working interest, in the prosperity of the Library.

LOVELL WHITE.

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- WISE, J.—Through the Air.
- WOOD, J. G.—Insects Abroad.
- WOOSTER, D.—Alpine Plants.
- WRIGHT, R. J.—Principia: or, Basis of Social Science.
- WYNTER, A.—Borderlands of Insanity.
- WYNTER, A.—Fruit between the Leaves, 2 vols.
- YEATS, J.—Natural History of the Raw Material of Commerce.

## MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS.

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### MAGAZINES.

- Academy,  
All the Year Round,  
American Chemist,  
American Historical Record,  
American Journal of Horticulture,  
American Literary Gazette,  
Annales des Mines,  
Annals & Magazine of Natural History,  
Architect,  
Art,  
Art Journal,  
Arundel Society Publications,  
Athenæum,  
Atlantic Monthly,  
Banker's (American) Magazine,  
    " (English)  
Belgravia,  
Bibliopolist,  
Bibliotheaca Sacra,  
Blackwood's Magazine,  
Bookbuyer,  
Bookseller,  
Boston Chemical News,  
    " Journal of Chemistry,  
Braithwaite's Retrospect of Practical  
    Medicine and Surgery,  
British Association for Promotion of  
    Science, Reports,  
British Quarterly,  
Builder,  
Bulletin of Boston Public Library,  
California Horticulturist,  
Catholic World,  
Chambers' Journal,  
Chaucer Society Publications,  
Coast Review,  
Colburn's United Service Magazine,  
Commercial and Financial Chronicle,  
Comptes Rendus,  
Contemporary Review,  
Cornhill Magazine,  
Demorest's Monthly Magazine and Mir-  
    ror of Fashions,  
Dingler's Polytechnisches Journal,  
Dublin University,  
Electric Magazine,  
Edinburgh Review,  
Every Saturday,  
Fortnightly Review,  
Frazer's Magazine,  
Galaxy,  
Gartenlaube, Die,  
Gentlemen's Magazine,  
Geological Magazine,  
Geolog. Soc. (London) Publications,  
Godey's Lady's Book,  
Good Words,  
Hakluyt Society Publications,  
Hall's Journal of Health,  
Harper's Magazine,  
Historical Magazine,  
Industrial Monthly,  
International Review,  
Iron,  
Journal Franklin Institute,  
    " of Speculative Philosophy,  
Le Bon Ton,  
Leisure Hour,  
Linnæan Society Publications,  
Lippincott's Magazine,  
Littell's Living Age,  
Literary World,  
Living Way,  
London Lancet,  
    " Quarterly Review,  
London, Edinburgh and Dublin Review,  
London Society,  
Macmillan's Magazine,  
Nature and Art,  
N. E. Historical and Genealogical Reg.  
New Englander,  
North American Review,  
North British Review,  
Notes and Queries,  
Old and New,  
Once a Week,  
Owl,  
Peterson's Magazine,  
Philadelphia Academy Natural Science,  
    Proceedings,  
Philological Soc. Lond., Publications,  
Philosophical Journal,  
Photographer,  
Phrenological Journal,

## MAGAZINES--Continued.

Popular Science Monthly,  
 Popular Science Review,  
 Practical Magazine,  
 Publisher's Weekly,  
 Revue des Deux Mondes,  
 " Universelle des Mines,  
 St. James Magazine,  
 Saturday Review,  
 Scribner's Monthly,  
 Social Science Association, Publications,

Southern Review,  
 Silliman's Journal,  
 Technologist,  
 Temple Bar,  
 Van Nostrand's Eclectic Engineering  
 Magazine,  
 Westminster Review,  
 Workshop,  
 Zoölogical Society, Publications.

## ILLUSTRATED PAPERS.

Aldine,  
 Appleton's Journal,  
 Budget of Fun,  
 Chimney Corner,  
 Comic Monthly,  
 Frank Leslie's,  
 Graphic,  
 Harper's Bazar,  
 " Weekly,  
 Illustrated Dramatic & Sporting Times,  
 (London),

Ilustracion Española y Americana, La,  
 Journal Amusant, Le,  
 Kladderadatsch,  
 London News,  
 Monde Illustré, Le,  
 Nick Nax,  
 Petit Journal pour rire,  
 Punch,  
 Uber Land und Meer,  
 Yankee Notions,  
 Zeitung.

## FOREIGN PAPERS.

Australasian,  
 Dublin Nation,  
 Hawaiian Advertiser,  
 Independance Belge,  
 Land and Water,  
 London Bell's Life,  
 " Engineer,  
 " Engineering,  
 London Field,

London Mining Journal,  
 " News of the World,  
 " Saturday Review,  
 " Spectator,  
 " Times, (Daily),  
 Siècle,  
 Sydney Mail,  
 Toronto Globe.

## ATLANTIC PAPERS.

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American Churchman,  
" Journal of Education,  
Atlantic County Review, (N. J.),  
Boston American Flag,  
" Banner of Light,  
" Daily Journal,  
" Gazette, (Donation),  
" Transcript,  
" Waverley Magazine,  
" Woman's Journal,  
Baltimore American,  
" Sun,  
Buffalo Express,  
Chicago Journal of Commerce, (Donation),  
Chicago Tribune,  
Christian Union,  
Cincinnati Commercial,  
Detroit Tribune,  
Dubuque Times,  
Frankfort, (Pa.) Gazette, (Donation),  
Galveston News,  
Indiana State Journal,  
Indianapolis Public School Advocate,  
Inter-Ocean,  
Kennebec Journal,  
Literary World,  
Louisville Journal,  
Memphis Appeal,  
Milwaukee Sentinel,  
Mississippi Clarion,  
Missouri Democrat,  
" Republican, (Daily),  
Mobile Register,  
New Haven Palladium,  
New Orleans Picayune,  
Newark Sentinel,  
New York Albion,  
" American Artizan,  
" Army and Navy Journal,  
" Citizen,  
" Clipper,

New York Country Gentleman,  
" Courier des États Unis,  
" Dispatch,  
" Evening Post,  
" Fireside Companion,  
" Golden Age,  
" Hearth and Home,  
" Herald, (Weekly),  
" Home Journal,  
" Independent,  
" Irish American,  
" Jour. of Com., (Daily),  
" Ledger,  
" Mercury,  
" Messager Franco, Le,  
" Nation,  
" Our Dumb Animals, (Donation),  
" Rural New Yorker,  
" Scientific American,  
" Scottish American,  
" South, The  
" Spirit of the Times,  
" Stadts Zeitung,  
" Sun, (Daily),  
" Sunday Times,  
" Times, (Daily),  
" Tribune, (Daily),  
" Turf, Field, Farm,  
" World, (Weekly),  
Philadelphia Enquirer, (Daily),  
" Forney's Press,  
" Ledger, (Daily),  
" Sunday Dispatch,  
Portland Transcript,  
Religio-Philosophico,  
Rhode Island Journal,  
Richmond Whig,  
Savannah Republican,  
Springfield Republican,  
Toledo Blade,  
Washington Chronicle.

# PACIFIC PAPERS DONATED.

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Papers.	Places of Pub.	Papers.	Places of Pub.
Abend Post.....	San Francisco.	Mendocino Democrat.....	Mendocino.
Advocate .....	"	" Dispatch...	"
Alameda Gazette.....	San Leandro.	Mining and Scientific	
Alaska Herald.....	San Francisco.	Press.....	San Francisco.
Alta California.....	"	Monitor .....	"
Anaheim Gazette.....	Anaheim.	Monterey Democrat .....	Monterey.
Berkeleyan.....	Berkeley.	" Herald.....	"
Brooklyn Journal.....	Brooklyn.	Morning Call .....	San Francisco.
California Demokrat....	San Francisco.	Mountain Democrat .....	Placerville.
" Farmer .....	"	" Messenger...	Downieville.
" Journal and		Napa Register.....	Napa City.
Sonntags Gast.....	"	Oakland Daily News...	Oakland.
" Leader .....	"	" Transcript "	
" Teacher .....	"	Occident.....	San Francisco.
Carter's Real Estate Circular.....	"	Pacific.....	"
Chico Enterprise .....	Chico.	Pajaronian .....	Watsonville.
" Record.....	"	Petaluma Journal.....	Petaluma.
Colusa Sun.....	Colusa.	Le Petit Journal.....	San Francisco.
*Commercial Herald and Market Review .....	San Francisco.	Real Estate Circular...	"
Contra Costa Gazette .....	Pacheco.	Resources of California.	"
Courier de S. F.....	San Francisco.	Russian River Flag....	Healdsburg.
Daily Herald.....	Stockton.	Sacramento Bee.....	Sacramento.
Daily Independent.....	"	" Daily Leader	"
Encinal .....	Alameda.	" *Record-Un-	"
Enterprise .....	Santa Cruz.	ion.....	"
Evangel .....	San Francisco.	San Benito Advance...	Hollister.
Evening Bulletin .....	"	San Bernardino Argus .S.	San Bernardino.
Examiner .....	"	" Tribune.	"
Fresno Expositor.....	Fresno.	San Diego Union.....	San Diego.
Gilroy Advocate.....	Gilroy.	S. F. Chronicle .....	San Francisco.
Golden Era .....	San Francisco.	*S. F. Evening Post...	"
Guardian.....	San Bernardino.	S. F. Journal (German..	"
Hebrew .....	San Francisco.	S. F. Journal of Com-	"
" Observer .....	"	merce.....	"
Hollister Enterprise...	Hollister.	S. F. News Letter....	"
Humboldt Times .....	Eureka.	S. F. Stock Report....	"
Inyo Independent.....	Independence.	San Jose Mercury.....	San Jose.
Kern Co. Courier .....	Bakersfield.	" Patriot.....	"
La Sociedad .....	San Francisco.	San Rafael Herald.....	San Rafael.
Lompoc Record.....	Lompoc.	Santa Barbara Index...	Santa Barbara.
Los Angeles Daily Star.Los Angeles.		" Press....	"
Los Angeles Express ..	"	Santa Cruz Local Item.	Santa Cruz.
Los Angeles Herald...	"	" Sentinel ...	"
Los Angeles La Cronica.	" .	Sonoma Democrat ....	Santa Rosa.
Marin Co. Journal.....	San Rafael.	Southern Californian...Anaheim.	
Marysville Daily Appeal.Marysville.		Spectator .....	San Francisco.
		Stanislaus News.....	Stanislaus.
		Sutter Banner.....	Yuba City.

\* No longer donated.

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA—Continued.

Papers.	Places of Pub.	Papers.	Places of Pub.
Trinity Journal.....	Weaverville.	Visalia Delta .....	Visalia.
Tulare Times.....	Visalia.....	West Coast Signal.....	Humboldt Bay.
Vallejo Chronicle,(Dly&Wkly)	Vallejo.	Yreka Journal .....	Yreka.
Ventura Signal .....	Ventura.	" Union .....	"

## STATE OF NEVADA.

Belmont Courier .....	Belmont.	Nevada State Journal .	Reno.
Borax Miner .....	Columbus.	Pioche Record.....	Pioche.
Elko Independent .....	Elko.	Territorial Enterprise..	Virginia City.
" Post .....	"	Virginia Chronicle.....	" "
Gold Hill News.....	Gold Hill.	White Pine News.....	Hamilton.
Lyon County News ....	Silver City.		

## STATE OF OREGON.

Baker City Herald.....	Baker City.	Oregon State Journal ..	Eugene City.
Bulletin .....	Portland.	Oregonian.....	Portland.
Enterprise.....	Oregon City.	Weekly Mercury .....	Salem.
New Northwest.....	Portland.	Willamette Farmer....	"
Oregon Sentinel .....	Jacksonville.		

## ARIZONA TERRITORY.

Arizona Citizen .....	Tucson.	Arizona Miner .....	Prescott.
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## COLORADO TERRITORY.

Rocky Mountain Herald .....	Denver.
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## IDAHO TERRITORY.

Avalanche .....	Silver City.
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## MONTANA TERRITORY.

Montanian .....	Virginia City.	New North West .....	Deer Lodge.
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## WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Argus .....	Port Townsend.	Puget Sound Express ..	Seattle.
Courier .....	Puget Sound.	Seattle Intelligencer...	Seattle.
Olympia Tribune .....	Olympia.	Walla Walla Union ...	Walla Walla.
Puget Sound Dispatch.	Seattle.		

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

British Colonist.....	Victoria.	Victoria Weekly Standard..	Victoria.
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## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Hawaiian Commercial Advertiser.....	Honolulu.
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# LIBRARY STATISTICS.

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditures.	Year.	Receipts.	Expenditures.
1853.....	\$10,858 50.....	\$10,726 51.....	1865.....	20,259 00.....	16,469 71.....
1854.....	13,387 30.....	11,938 02.....	1866.....	84,182 76.....	74,980 05.....
1855.....	9,015 85.....	8,747 96.....	1867.....	121,256 15.....	139,322 01.....
1856.....	10,300 00.....	8,989 27.....	1868.....	145,312 31.....	145,312 31.....
1857.....	11,777 87.....	12,474 73.....	1869.....	82,148 53.....	82,148 35.....
1858.....	12,089 15.....	11,701 09.....	1870.....	512,224 18.....	492,935 75.....
1859.....	16,854 82.....	19,045 16.....	1871.....	26,674 20.....	41,186 38.....
1860.....	15,604 50.....	16,482 20.....	1872.....	26,483 83.....	25,471 29.....
1861.....	15,852 98.....	15,112 22.....	1873.....	28,689 40.....	31,038 66.....
1862.....	15,333 26.....	13,506 79.....	1874.....	32,897 25.....	33,258 36.....
1863.....	14,601 75.....	14,460 40.....	1875.....	26,836 25.....	27,512 83.....
1864.....	\$17,641 12.....	\$16,166 39.....			

## GROWTH OF THE LIBRARY.

### NUMBER OF VOLUMES AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF EACH YEAR.

Year.	No. of Volumes.	Year.	No. of Volumes.
1853.....	1,500.....	1865.....	18,095.....
1854.....	2,705.....	1866.....	19,711.....
1855.....	3,315.....	1867.....	21,557.....
1856.....	3,833.....	1868.....	24,020.....
1857.....	6,135.....	1869.....	25,745.....
1858.....	8,447.....	1870.....	28,110.....
1859.....	10,066.....	1871.....	30,002.....
1860.....	11,485.....	1872.....	30,006.....
1861.....	13,821.....	1873.....	33,614.....
1862.....	14,985.....	1874.....	36,356.....
1863.....	15,906.....	1875.....	39,148.....
1864.....	16,620.....	1876.....	41,563.....

## INCREASE OF MEMBERS.

### NUMBER OF MEMBERS AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF EACH YEAR.

Year.	No. of Members.	Year.	No. of Members.
1854.....	392.....	1866.....	2,198.....
1855.....	552.....	1867.....	1,708.....
1856.....	550.....	1868.....	1,818.....
1857.....	1,250.....	1869.....	1,870.....
1858.....	1,176.....	1870.....	1,984.....
1859.....	1,319.....	1871.....	2,020.....
1860.....	1,817.....	1872.....	2,062.....
1861.....	1,694.....	1873.....	2,048.....
1862.....	1,725.....	1874.....	2,038.....
1863.....	1,786.....	1875.....	2,041.....
1864.....	1,435.....	1876.....	2,135.....
1865.....	1,650.....		

## OPERATIONS OF THE LIBRARY.

### NUMBER OF VOLUMES TAKEN OUT.

Year.	No. of Volumes.	Year.	No. of Volumes.
1854.....	3,371.....	1865.....	41,737.....
1855.....	8,367.....	1866.....	54,389.....
1856.....	10,466.....	1867.....	54,492.....
1857.....	17,528.....	1868.....	62,237.....
1858.....	17,321.....	1869.....	79,189.....
1859.....	21,903.....	1870.....	82,564.....
1860.....	25,757.....	1871.....	84,710.....
1861.....	31,055.....	1872.....	88,916.....
1862.....	31,464.....	1873.....	88,57.....
1863.....	35,762.....	1874.....	
1864.....	40,136.....	1875.....	

